

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3134
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER TO RUSSIA
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he had visited Russia recently; and
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes.

(b) Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of External Affairs, visited Moscow on 19-20 February 2003. During the visit, he held wide ranging talks with the Russian leaders on issues of mutual interest. He met Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov and Industry and Science & Technology Minister Ilya Klebanov. In these talks, the two sides reviewed their bilateral relations and noted the convergence of views on major international issues. They agreed that Pakistan should fulfil its commitments to cease cross-border terrorism, stop infiltration of terrorists into India and destroy the infrastructure on its territory which supports, trains or otherwise abets terrorists. It was also decided that the next session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation will be held in Moscow.